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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Reverend Brian C. Mentzer, of Riverdale Baptist Church, in Upper Marlboro, MD.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, ruler and maker of Heaven and Earth, we recognize that in You we live and move and have our being and that You are not far from each one of us. We praise You for You are the creator and sustainer of all life. We thank You for Your grace and love, righteousness and wisdom.

Sovereign Lord, we humbly seek Your guidance today on behalf of these Senators. May they fulfill their responsibilities before You with courage and compassion. May they chart a course for our Nation to follow that pleases You. May they hold their office in which You have placed them and may they discharge their obligations to this Nation and to You with dignity, charity, and honor. As they face great pressures, please give them Your wisdom to make decisions based on Your principles.

You have told us in Your word that righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people. As Nehemiah of old prayed, we also ask You . . . God please forgive us of our national sins. On too many occasions we have not acted justly, nor loved mercy, nor walked humbly with You. Forgive us, we pray, and cleanse and bless us that we may bless others.

Lord of Hosts, please protect our military forces who bravely stand in harm's way to secure and protect freedom around the world. Grant them swift success in their mission. Bless and keep their families as well.

And now, Lord, we commit the business of this day and this Senate to You,

for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

In Your Name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the time divided between both sides, the Republicans having the first half and the majority the second half. Following that period of time, the Senate

will resume consideration of the 9/11 legislation, S. 4.

Last night, the Republican leader and I had a discussion about the legislation, the importance of completing it and how we do so. The Republican leader modified a pending amendment in order to include the provisions of three other amendments which were pending, and then filed cloture on that amendment. Before adjourning last night, I filed cloture on both the substitute amendment and the bill. So tomorrow morning, Friday, we will have a cloture vote on the Republican amendment. And, of course, if cloture is not invoked, then there is an immediate cloture vote on the substitute. So Members could be here Friday well beyond the noon hour.

Just to remind Members, since cloture has been filed on the substitute and the bill, they have until 1 p.m. today to file any additional germane first-degree amendments. At this point, approximately 110 amendments have already been filed.

Right now, 40 amendments are currently pending. That includes, of course, the substitute amendment. I am advised that from a preliminary review by the Parliamentarians of these pending amendments, only eight of them are germane. I have the list of amendments here. It is a long list, as we indicated, of some 100-plus amendments. Out of those, there are eight that are germane. There may be a couple more that are arguably germane. But that is where we are. We will instruct the two managers to see if they, today, can move through the germane amendments. That would speed things up postcloture tomorrow.

We are still attempting to resolve other issues on this most important bill. It is a bill that deals, as we know, with the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. It has been 2½ years since they completed their work. The House has already done theirs. We are going to do our very best to follow suit. I feel

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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